



**94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2005 and 2006**  
**HB3624**

Introduced 2/24/2005, by Rep. William B. Black

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21-5b

Amends the School Code. Increases the maximum number of new participants that may be in the Alternative Teacher Certification Program each year from 260 to 500. In the provision concerning the employment requirement, removes the minimum period of time that the person must have been employed. Effective July 1, 2005.

LRB094 07157 RAS 37311 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21-5b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

7 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board of  
8 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
9 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
10 alternative certification program under which persons who meet  
11 the requirements of and successfully complete the program  
12 established by this Section shall be issued an alternative  
13 teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. The program  
14 shall be limited to not more than 500 ~~260~~ new participants  
15 during each year that the program is in effect. The State Board  
16 of Education, in cooperation with a partnership formed with a  
17 university that offers 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree  
18 programs and that is a recognized institution as defined in  
19 Section 21-21 and one or more not-for-profit organizations in  
20 the State which support excellence in teaching, shall within 30  
21 days after submission by the partnership approve a course of  
22 study developed by the partnership that persons in the program  
23 must successfully complete in order to satisfy one criterion  
24 for issuance of an alternative certificate under this Section.  
25 The Alternative Teacher Certification program course of study  
26 must include the current content and skills contained in the  
27 university's current courses for State certification which  
28 have been approved by the State Board of Education, in  
29 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, as the  
30 requirement for State teacher certification.

31 The alternative certification program established under  
32 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher

1 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification  
2 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership and may  
3 be offered in conjunction with one or more not-for-profit  
4 organizations in the State which support excellence in  
5 teaching. The program shall be comprised of the following 3  
6 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study offered on  
7 an intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,  
8 and practice teaching; (b) the second phase is the person's  
9 assignment to a full-time teaching position for one school  
10 year; and (c) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of  
11 the person's teaching performance by school officials and the  
12 partnership participants and a recommendation by the partner  
13 institution of higher education to the State Board of Education  
14 that the person be issued a standard alternative teaching  
15 certificate. Successful completion of the Alternative Teacher  
16 Certification program shall be deemed to satisfy any other  
17 practice or student teaching and subject matter requirements  
18 established by law.

19 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
20 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
21 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at the  
22 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
23 certificate under this Section:

24 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
25 university with a bachelor's degree;

26 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of  
27 the Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided  
28 in this Section;

29 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
30 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

31 (4) have been employed ~~for a period of at least 5~~  
32 ~~years~~ in an area requiring application of the individual's  
33 education; however, this requirement does not apply with  
34 respect to a provisional alternative teaching certificate  
35 for teaching in schools situated in a school district that  
36 is located in a city having a population in excess of

1           500,000 inhabitants.

2           A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
3           under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified  
4           teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms  
5           and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school  
6           who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an  
7           exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

8           Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching  
9           certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools and  
10          renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under  
11          this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the  
12          requirements for the provisional alternative teaching  
13          certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard  
14          alternative teaching certificate under this Section have  
15          successfully completed the second and third phases of the  
16          Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this  
17          Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the end  
18          of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a  
19          standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,  
20          on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate  
21          issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to  
22          apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet  
23          the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code  
24          and further provided that a person who does not apply for and  
25          receive a Standard Teaching Certificate shall be able to teach  
26          only in schools situated in a school district that is located  
27          in a city having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

28          Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed the  
29          requirements for a standard alternative teaching certificate  
30          under this Section shall be issued an Initial Alternative  
31          Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of teaching and not  
32          renewable. At the end of the 4-year validity period, these  
33          persons shall be eligible, on the same basis as holders of an  
34          Initial Teaching Certificate issued under subsection (b) of  
35          Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching  
36          Certificate, provided they meet the requirements of subsection

1 (c) of Section 21-2.

2 This alternative certification program shall be  
3 implemented so that the first provisional alternative teaching  
4 certificates issued under this Section are effective upon the  
5 commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the first  
6 standard alternative teaching certificates issued under this  
7 Section are effective upon the commencement of the 1998-1999  
8 academic year.

9 The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the  
10 partnership establishing the Alternative Teacher Certification  
11 program, shall adopt rules and regulations that are consistent  
12 with this Section and that the State Board of Education deems  
13 necessary to establish and implement the program.

14 (Source: P.A. 91-609, eff. 1-1-00.)

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
16 2005.